

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, November 15, 2011
5:00 PM

Present: Audrey Murphy, J. Tibbetts, MD, Carole Andrews, Patricia Bacelis Leon, Harold Pfothenhauer

Excused: Joe Van Deurzen , Don Murray

Staff Present: Judy Friederichs, John Paul

Guest Present: Audra Kunesh, UWGB Nursing Student

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENT STATUS

Audra, nursing student from UWGB introduced herself.

Judy reported that Patricia Bacelis-Leon and Dr. Tibbetts were re-appointed for another two year term on the Board of Health at the last County Board meeting.

2. APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

Judy asked that items 4 and 6 be switched so that John Paul can leave as soon as item 6 is completed.

MOTION: To approve the agenda. Andrews / Pfothenhauer

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF September 13, 2011

MOTION: To approve. Andrews / Tibbetts

MOTION CARRIED

6. ODOR COMPLAINTS

John Paul stated that there have been four complaints called in since September 13th. John, Judy and Dale Schmit met with representatives from Sanimax to discuss odor concerns. Sanimax has two new managers on board who attended the meeting. John VanderLeest, Pat Evans and a representative from the DNR also attended. Sanimax is going to send a letter to people / businesses in the neighborhood describing improvements

that have been made or are planned in the future. They will also include information about how complaints will be handled in the future. They are planning some upgrades in May and will give a tour of the facility during a meeting in June.

Health Department staff responded to two complaints from businesses over the summer. These were complaints that staff would not have responded to in the past because previous interpretations of the code indicated that only homeowners could file a complaint.

Audrey asked if the ordinance will need to be changed to reflect that businesses can file complaints about odor. Judy said that her understanding is that this is just a new interpretation of the ordinance, so a change should not be needed. Carole agreed that the existing ordinance can be interpreted in this way.

MOTION: To receive and place on file. Andrews / Pfotenhauer

MOTION CARRIED

4. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR SB 98: REQUIREMENTS FOR WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS, PROVIDING AN EXEMPTION FROM EMERGENCY RULE PROCEDURES AND GRANTING RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY

Audrey distributed copies of SB 263 to board members and asked them to disregard SB 98, which had been mailed to members in their meeting packets. She pointed out that SB 263 stipulates that PSC rules should not go into effect until a report is received from the Department of Health regarding the health impact of sound produced by wind turbines. She read the section of the bill relating to this requirement (bill attached).

Carole stated that the opportunity to get out of a contract was not included in SB 263. This opportunity may have been very helpful for some of the citizens who have come before the board in the past.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that some engineers have said that determination of setbacks should be done individually for each turbine to account for unique topography in different areas. This is alluded to in SB 263.

Audrey said that this bill needs to be monitored by the board. Since it is not on the agenda for this meeting, action cannot be taken to support it. She suggested that it be placed on the next meeting agenda. Dr. Tibbetts said that this is going before the Energy Committee, Senate and Assembly in early to mid-January. He asked the group how soon the board would want to meet to determine whether to support this bill. Carole said that the

bill will be in its final form once it comes out of committee – so it might be a good idea to discuss it at that time.

Harold asked if board members should submit concerns individually or as a board. The group agreed that it would be best for the group to submit concerns as a board.

Judy asked how much could be discussed since the bill specified on the agenda is not the bill that they would like to respond to. Carole said that as long as the discussion has to do with the differences between the bills and that no action is taken, it would be OK. Audrey stated that she thinks a special meeting should be scheduled to discuss SB 263. Since it is not known when the Energy Committee will be meeting, it is difficult to find a time. She said that she will call legislators' offices to learn the date and then schedule a meeting of the Board of Health from there. Carole said that it is easiest to make changes to a bill while it is in committee rather than waiting until it is before the Senate or Assembly.

5. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (BY DIRECTOR); RESPONSE

Judy received a records request for documents related to the Glenmore wind farm project from an attorney in Sheboygan. She forwarded the documents on file to John Leutscher who approved releasing them to the attorney.

Audrey brought up an email exchange that had been forwarded to board members. The email exchange includes an update on the Enz and Ashley families and their complaints regarding the wind turbines near their home. Judy stated that she informed the sender that she forwarded the information to Mark Warner and Chuck Warzecha at the Department of Health. The sender thanked Judy for forwarding her message.

Audrey asked Judy to send an email to Mark and Chuck asking if they are receiving feedback from other people affected by wind turbines. Dr. Tibbetts stated that it would be very helpful to get some feedback from the state.

7. BUDGET 2012 UPDATE

Judy said that the staffing changes in the budget including eliminating and upgrading positions have all been approved. Also, Pat Evans had asked Judy at the Human Services budget meeting if the department could use more money to pay for after-hours environmental response. Judy and John calculated the additional cost of responding to odors to be about \$1,500. That amount was added to the overtime budget by Pat Evans.

Audrey clarified that the Nurse Manager position will be refilled.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judy said that the recruitment process for the Nurse Manager position has begun. The position has been posted. The Sanitarian position will be recruited at .75 FTE with the goal to increase the position to 1.0 FTE if the license revenue is sufficient.

When Judy met with the County Executive regarding the Nurse Manager position he recommended that she move ahead with the request-to-fill for the two Public Health Nurse positions that will be vacated in December.

Judy will also be requesting that a staff person who filled a regional preparedness position be kept on as a local preparedness grant-funded coordinator to assist Steve Johnson in that program. She is also considering applying for an accreditation grant that this person would work on in addition to her local preparedness duties. There is some concern, however that this accreditation process may be too costly to follow through on.

Chapter 4 of the Brown County Code, relating to personnel policies is being revised to reflect the end of most collective bargaining agreements. It does not appear that this revision will result in substantial changes in the way the department functions. In addition to the county-wide policies and procedures related to Chapter 4, the department will also develop specific policies and procedures for Health Department staff.

At the Executive Committee meeting, it was announced that the day after Thanksgiving will be an additional holiday for administrative staff. Starting in 2012, this day will be a Personal Day for all staff. The Executive has authorized departments to close on that day if represented staff agree to use vacation, Personal or furlough leave. All Health Department staff have agreed to this so the department will be closed.

Judy plans to look at the licensing program through the LEAN process in 2012. Staff will participate in a kaizen event to determine if this program can be streamlined to reduce steps, staff time, cost, etc.

Flu clinics are not as busy this year, especially with adults. There are so many opportunities for adults to get the vaccine in the community that Health Department clinics are less attractive than they used to be. Brown County and De Pere will be evaluating the adult flu vaccine program for next year in light of the decreased demand.

A refrigerator used to store Flumist vaccine failed. The manufacturer stated that the vaccine could be used for another 48 hours before it must be disposed of. Staff worked very hard to distribute the vaccine in as many ways as possible to reduce the waste. About half of the doses were used within 48 hours, but 468 doses will need to be disposed of. Insurance will cover the cost. The existing alarm system only alerts staff when the electricity is out, so an updated alarm system will be purchased to prevent this from happening in the future.

Judy will be doing a presentation at the next board meeting regarding the Community Health Improvement Process. The key data that lead to the chosen priorities will be reviewed as well as the process that the group went through. Judy distributed the brochure that was produced by this group.

9. ALL OTHER BUSINESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Audrey stated that on September 15th she was invited along with Dr. Tibbetts and Supervisor Pat Evans to a farm in Glenmore owned by Kevin Ashenbrenner. Mr. Ashenbrenner is concerned about the health effects from wind turbines near his farm on his livestock.

Since the turbines were installed, 13 of his 87 cows died. 17 – 19 calves have also died since January 1, 2010. Necropsies were performed on some of the cattle, but no cause of death could be found. The state veterinarian has been contacted. The meeting was videotaped and Supervisor Evans took notes. Other meeting attendees included a nutritionist from a feed mill, Town Supervisor Lopnow and David Enz (another property owner in the area). The farmer also states that his cows have swollen ankles. Mr. Ashenbrenner stated that more turbines are planned in the vicinity of his farm. He also said that there are gag orders in place for people who have agreed to have a turbine on their property. There was also a payment of \$1,000 to some of the neighbors when they signed a “Good Neighbor” agreement to not complain about the turbines.

Audrey stated that the company that installed the turbines in Glenmore has been sold three times since the turbines were installed.

David Enz invited the people in attendance to visit his home. He is not currently living there because of the health effects he believes are caused by the turbines. While in the home, one of the group members stated that she felt some pressure and palpitations. Other group members did not report any symptoms.

Audrey stated that the Sunday, November 6th issue of the Press Gazette included a letter which indicates that wind turbine studies were done in

Glenmore in 1998. Audrey said that she wonders why this study hasn't been brought up to this point.

Carole said that it is important to keep the meeting at Mr. Ashenbrenners' farm in mind when responding to SB 263. She does not believe it is legal to go to the neighbors of people who agree to have wind turbines on their property and pay them to keep quiet.

10. ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 10th at 5:00 PM.

MOTION: To adjourn, at 6:30 PM.

Pfotenhauer / Andrews

MOTION CARRIED